



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
WATER

AUG 25 2016

Ms. MaryLou Berk  
8010 Barry Court  
Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966

Dear Ms. Berk:

Thank you for your August 10, 2016, email regarding your concerns about the possibility of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in public and private wells near two naval bases, Willow Grove and Johnsville, PA. Despite the environmental challenges ahead, concerned people like you are many of the reasons why we are optimistic about the public and environmental health of our nation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is committed to supporting drinking water system operators, and state, tribal and local officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing public water systems, with information on the health risks of these chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents.

Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS are based on the best available peer-reviewed studies of the effects of PFOA and PFOS on laboratory animals and informed by epidemiological studies of human populations that have been exposed to perfluoroalkyl substances (the group of chemicals of which PFOA and PFOS are a part). The agency's Health Advisory levels were calculated to offer a margin of protection against adverse health effects to the most sensitive populations: fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed infants.

The agency is currently evaluating PFOA and PFOS as drinking water contaminants under the process required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). In accordance with the SDWA, the agency will consider occurrence data, along with the peer reviewed health effects assessments supporting the PFOA and PFOS Health Advisories, and will continue to assess the health science on these contaminants as we determine whether to initiate the process to develop a national primary drinking water regulation.

Protecting the public health and the environment is the EPA's mission, but we cannot do this work alone, and that is why we encourage you and your family and friends to stay involved. Again, thank you for your letter letting us know about your concerns regarding safe drinking water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Adrienne Harris", is positioned above the typed name.

Adrienne Harris  
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water